

# HOUR AND DATE OF FIREMEN'S STRIKE SET

Not Made Public—Men on Long Runs Probably Will be Given Time to Get Back to Starting Point—Mediation Under Erdman Act Has Been Requested and Granted—Railroad Officials Believe it Will Prevent Walk-Out.

(Chicago, March 15.—President Carter announced from the committee late today that in all probability the firemen would accept the offered mediation under the Erdman act.

"There will be no strike," said President Carter, "but the mediation must be speedy or the men will not submit to it."

Chicago, March 15.—The date and hour of calling the strike of the firemen on the western railroads was determined by the union officials today, but the committee announced until the afternoon without announcing the time. President Carter of the union, said he believed the committee would order the strike regardless of the mediation proposal.

News that the controversy between the western railroads and the local firemen and engineers would mediate under the Erdman act came as a surprise to the officials of the employees' union, while they were in session endeavoring to decide on the hour when the strike should be called.

Railroad officials without hesitation declared that mediation under the Erdman act would put a stop for the present at least to the proposed walk-out.

Under the act, the questions upon which the employers and the men disagreed will be submitted to Chairman Knapp of the interstate commerce commission and Commissioner Neill.

This afternoon the committee of union officials will assemble and if a telegram from Chairman Knapp is received will give it their attention. If no telegram is received it is the expressed determination of the union committee to conclude its business endeavoring to make public the date of calling the strike, which they have already fixed on, and in the words of President Carter, "fold their tents and go home."

The ultimatum of the union committee was sent last night to Chairman W. C. Nixon, of the general managers' committee. It reads as follows:

**COMMITTEE'S ULTIMATUM.**

Ten letters of March 14, wherein we say that the managers' committee refuse to submit to arbitration matters in controversy has been received and has been given serious consideration. The refusal of the managers' committee to arbitrate articles two and three on the plea that another arbitration is pending is not acceptable to our committee for the reason that we are only requiring the restoration of a rule and procedure which we have always enjoyed until recently when railroad managers advocated the nullification of such rules, thereby depriving certain employees of rights which are guaranteed to every other employee in the service of railroads represented by the managers' committee.

"Our committee authorizes me to express to the managers' committee (re: that our conferences are thus brought to a close without having reached a solution of the matters in dispute, and to advise you that our committee has authorized the men at this juncture to withdraw from the service. By order of the committee."

W. S. CARTER,  
President Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen.

It was estimated that the date for calling off the men would be given to them before receiving the notice for them to quit work. Others may be given a hint not to start on long runs, many of the firemen are on such runs, some of them could not get back to their starting point under ordinary conditions in less than four days. Those who have been on long runs are being notified since their inception of the opinion that several days at least will elapse before the strike will go into effect in any event.

Much also depends on the action taken by the union officials in the event that they receive a direct communication from Chairman Knapp.

**MANAGERS' STATEMENT.**

O. L. Dickerson, assistant to the president of the Chicago and Burlington Railway, on behalf of the managers' committee gave out the following statement today:

"In order that the public and interested commercial interests of the country may not be embarrassed or injured by the effect of a conflict which the firemen propose, the railroads have invoked the aid of the interstate commerce commission and Chairman Knapp, of the interstate commerce commission, and Commissioner Neill, of the department of labor, to mediate under the Erdman act, and in an effort to peacefully adjust the differences between the firemen and the railroads, and to do so as to have the men on all runs, and to have the railroads for a peaceful adjustment."

President Carter, of the firemen's organization, stated this afternoon that the telegrams from Chairman Knapp and Commissioner Neill, in all probability, will be received by the union officials today, and that the union officials will then decide whether or not to accept the mediation offered by the railroad officials, and if they do not accept it, they will call the strike.

The railroad officials stated that they expect to have little difficulty in replacing any firemen who strike, as they employ a large number of men.

The Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads have divisions terminating here, at Seattle and at Tacoma. Local officials of these roads stated they are not in a position to speak adversely as to what affect the strike will have upon the roads they represent.

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THE GOVERNOR'S HEADQUARTERS (THE WHITE PALACE) AT KHARTOUM, EGYPT. Where Col. Roosevelt is a welcome guest at the governor's palace, Khartoum, once occupied by Gen. Gordon.

places of the men. Consequently a walk-out will cause temporary confusion, but I believe that there will be little difficulty in finding men after the first few days. Freight service will be tied up for a short time, but I think that we will be able to move passenger trains without interruption."

Officers of the Seattle local Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen say that they had received no advice concerning the action of the general committee.

## All Roads Entering Salt Lake, Except One, Will be Affected by the Firemen's Strike.

The great firemen's strike, which is expected to be called at any time from the Brotherhood quarters in Chicago, will affect all of the lines which come into Salt Lake with the exception of the Denver & Rio Grande, and it is possible that the men on this road will go out in sympathy. There will be but a few over 200 men directly implicated in the strike in the city, but the action will deprive many thousands of work and a practical tie-up of transportation will ensue.

The firemen of the order, the order of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, are fighting for what they call "representation." It is a sort of a three-cornered affair, with the railroad, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen. These two unions have been at loggerheads for several years and last fall the situation became so strained that the firemen quietly began preparations for the movement which is expected to culminate soon.

An employee cannot become an engineer until he has served a novitiate of three years as a fireman. When he secures an engine, he must, according to the rules of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, drop his former affiliation with the firemen and become a member of the senior order.

Many firemen, after they have passed their examinations and are ready to become engineers, decline to drop their old order. They maintain that they have a right to their organization and the fight between the two orders has been a fierce one for several years. The engineers' union, which is the older and the more powerful, will not budget on the fact that their constitution holds them to the matter of representation, which is really the gist of the matter.

The matter of representation, which is really the gist of the matter, is that the firemen want to be recognized by the railroad officials while the engineers are more favored. The officials claim that they will recognize both orders, but the firemen insist that they must state their grievances through the engineers' body. The engineers have an agreement with the railroads, and that nobody but those who belong to their organization shall represent any engineers' grievances.

The matter of wages, which also enters into the strike, is but a side issue and would readily be adjusted by arbitration. In a general strike, the order of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers are asking for a recognition of their organization as engineers after they have attained to that position, and an amply awaiting development.

Mr. Baeroff did not venture any statement as to what matter would be handled should the strike be called and all the firemen leave their jobs.

J. F. Dunn, superintendent of motive power, machinery of the Short Line, said he had received no information that the firemen on the Short Line would be given out at the present time.

Mr. Dunn, "I have talked with officials of the local branch of the Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, and they told me distinctly that there would be no strike here. They told me they had no grievances to settle, and while they would of course like to receive an increase in pay yet they did not feel that they had sufficient complaint to take part in the strike. Of course, if the men do go out it will cripple the road temporarily. But really, I do not think the strike will be called."

W. H. Smith, assistant superintendent of the Salt Lake Road, had heard nothing of the firemen on his road going out on strike when seen this morning. "The firemen on the Salt Lake Road have expressed no intention of walking out," said Mr. Smith, "and whether they will consider themselves bound to follow the order to strike I given, seeing they have no grievances themselves, I am not in a position to say. I know that the relations between the Salt Lake Road and all its men are most agreeable."

J. C. Bailey, general superintendent of the lines of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad in Utah, said: "I do not think our road will be affected by the strike at all. There are three roads in the west not represented in the General Managers' association, against which the firemen are directed, and they are the Denver & Rio Grande, Colorado Midland and Colorado & Southern. So even if the strike is called I hardly think the men will go out, as they have no grievances and no complaints of contracts broken by these three lines."

# COL. ROOSEVELT WONDERFULLY BUSY

Between Visits to Points of Historic Interest, Receives Visitors And Replies to Correspondents.

GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE.

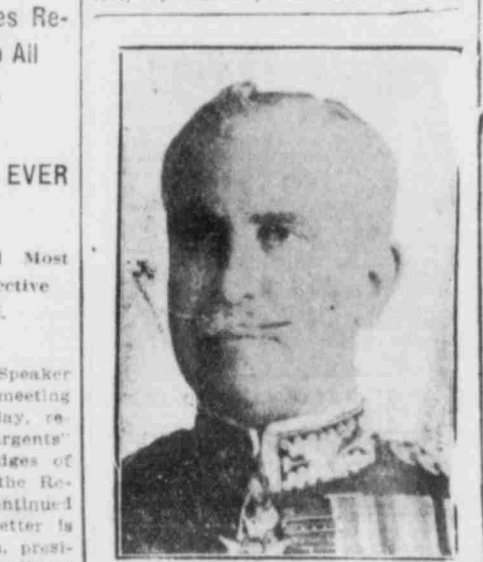
In Answer to Request That He Return Via San Francisco, Replies That It Is Impossible.

Khartoum, March 15.—Bent on making the most of their brief stay in this, the capital of the Egyptian general government of the Sudan, the Roosevelts were early astir today. Col. Roosevelt was especially busy, occupying the intervals between excursions to points of historic interest in receiving callers and making reply to such of his voluminous correspondence as he had been able to examine.

After breakfast he summoned to him the native servants who had accompanied him through the expedition and bade them good bye. Each received a present of cash from Col. Roosevelt and a gift from Mrs. Roosevelt.

**SIGHT SEEING PROGRAM.**

The sight seeing program began with a visit to Gordon Memorial college, built at the east end of the town in 1902, by subscription solicited from



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GENERAL SIR REGINALD WINGATE, D.S.O., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., ETC.

Governor general of the Sudan and chief of the Egyptian army, King Edward's representative, who prepared a rousing welcome for the mighty hunter, ex-President Roosevelt, at Khartoum.

The British people by Lord Kitchener. From the college a drive was taken to other parts of the town. Col. Roosevelt, Mrs. Roosevelt, Miss Ethel Roosevelt and Maj. Gen. Sir Reginald Wingate, the inspector general of the Sudan staff, made up the party. They occupied a carriage drawn by a handsome pair of horses and escorted by two Egyptian lancers. During the drive they were joined by other members of Maj. Gen. Wingate's staff, occupying two carriages.

Later in the forenoon the Roosevelts abandoned their carriage for a motor car, and unaccompanied, drove into the suburbs. This afternoon the Roosevelts planned a visit to Kerri, the scene of the great battle on Sept. 2, 1898, when the Anglo-Egyptian forces defeated the khalf and reconquered Egypt. The trip to Kerri will be made in the morning.

The tentative plans of the Roosevelts provide for their departure from here on a special train Thursday night, en route to Cairo, a stop of one day will be made at Assuan, upper Egypt, on the east bank of the Nile, and two days will be given over to a visit to Luxor.

**RETURN TO AMERICA.**

F. V. Bonfils of Denver, who came here to meet Col. Roosevelt, today had an interview with the latter and presented him with a petition from the chamber of commerce of Kansas City and other western cities asking the former president to return to the United States by way of San Francisco.

Mr. Roosevelt replied it would be impossible for him to accept the suggestion, owing to his engagements, but he promised to return to the United States by way of San Francisco.

Col. Roosevelt, on his visit to the Gordon Memorial college, addressed the students informally expressing great interest in their work and remarking upon the splendid progress made by British energy within the few years that its influence had been exerted in Khartoum.

sent the truth to meet action, that the people may fairly judge as to the fidelity of the present administration to the principles of the party that gave it power to the end that the president may continue to have the support of the legislative department in working out the policies of the Republican party."

**WHAT PRESIDENT HOPES OF REPUBLICAN EDITORS.**

Washington, March 15.—President Taft went to the convention of the Republican editors at Springfield, Ill., today the following telegram:

"Sincerely hoping that you will have a full meeting, that there will be harmony, and that the Republican editors of Illinois will stand by the action of the Republican Congress and the Republican administration in reference to the tariff bill and other progressive legislation. The expression of a meeting like the one you have called, arising from a normal, sane and patriotic Republican attitude, will have much influence for good in Illinois and the rest of the country."

"WILLIAM H. TAFT."

# LABORERS PULL GUNS

Lively Times on Water Main Ditch On Second Avenue This Morning.

POLICE IN A PROMPT CHARGE

Foreman Hill Knocks Ringleader Senseless and Then Rome Howls With Abandon.

Lively Scattering of Greeks and Italians Who Throw Away Their Weapons—Four Arrests.

Flourishing revolvers and automatic pistols, and threatening to kill Foreman J. H. Hill who has charge of laying a watermain on Second avenue between L and N streets, more than half a hundred infuriated Greeks and Italians precipitated a riot about five minutes after 8 o'clock this morning and but for the quick appearance on the scene of trouble of Motorcycle Policemen Griffin, followed soon by other policemen, no doubt several men would have been shot.

Nearly 150 men were put to work this morning on Second avenue by Doyle & Schwartz, who have the contract for laying the water main. The men were in charge of J. H. Hill, foreman. Just after 8 o'clock five or six foreigners appeared on the job and asked for work. Hill told them they could have a job and that they would be paid \$1.50 per day while the Americans were to receive \$2 per day.

**DEMAND SAME WAGES.**

The men started to work but within five minutes trouble started when Andrew Steles, who assumed leadership over the foreigners, rushed up to Hill and demanded that his followers receive the same scale of wages as the Americans. Hill told him this could not be done and ordered the men to return to their work or leave the job. Steles then ordered the white men and the foreigners to quit work at the same time signalling to two of his men. In a flash three of them drew revolvers and started toward Hill in a threatening manner. The latter, nothing daunted, drew a revolver and knocked Steles unconscious to the ground.

**AMERICANS RALLY.**

With howls of rage the foreigners rushed to the scene of trouble, drawing weapons as they ran. Hill, armed with a gun, and several other Americans armed with picks, shovels and pieces of iron, held the enraged men at bay while a man in the neighborhood turned in a shot to the police. Patrolman Griffin jumped on his motorcycle and in a few seconds reached the scene of trouble. By this time Steles had somewhat recovered from the blow he received on the jaw and was urging his men to violence, but Griffin placed him under arrest, disarmed the man and then arrested three others.

**GUNS THROWN AWAY.**

By this time Mounted Patrolmen Johnson and Patrol Driver Moore reached the scene. The appearance of the patrol wagon and the two mounted policemen caused the foreigners to scatter and the dusky hued trouble makers did Dorando's in every direction, throwing their weapons away as they ran. Steles, who had been attempting to run but Griffin had held them with their guns over their heads and into ditches but they did not turn running until the last was out of sight.

The entire neighborhood was aroused by the tumult. Mothers and children rushed into the house, while the male portion of the inhabitants who were home, armed themselves and stood ready to assist the police in quelling the riot.

**MAN WITH A RIFLE.**

While the police were looking for the troublesome laborers, two or three Greeks went to a residence on M street and demanded the return of their weapons which they claimed they had thrown into the yard. A young man, armed with a rifle, rushed out and drove them off.

**\$3,414.64 ON RINGLEADER.**

Only four men were arrested. They gave their names as Andrew Steles, Ralph Baroni, Anglos Pappas and George Pappas. They are charged with disturbing the peace, carrying concealed weapons and Steles is facing the additional charge of interfering with an officer. When searched at the station the latter had certified checks amounting to \$3,400 and \$14.62 in cash on him.

**GRIFFIN'S STORY.**

"I got there just in the nick of time," said Patrolman Griffin. "Three of them had drawn guns on Hill but he had knocked Steles cold with the butt of a gun. The men were yelling like a lot of Comanches and it looked to me like they had the murder on their minds. When the other officers arrived there was a great scattering and in a few seconds you couldn't see a Greek or Italian in sight. We gathered up all the guns we could find and disarmed the men I arrested."

**ORIGIN OF TROUBLE.**

Quiet was restored in about an hour and the white men and several foreigners who had not participated in the trouble, resumed work. Foreman Hill will swear out a complaint against Steles and in all probability he will be charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder. A young Italian who had been on the job, stated that the trouble was caused by a man named Steles who had been employed on the job, who ordered all the foreigners to quit unless they were paid \$2 per day the same as the Americans.